

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Shives et al.
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For: ELECTRODE INSPECTION SYSTEM
Attorney's Docket No. P2005-1/N8208
Customer No. 23456



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

To the Honorable Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

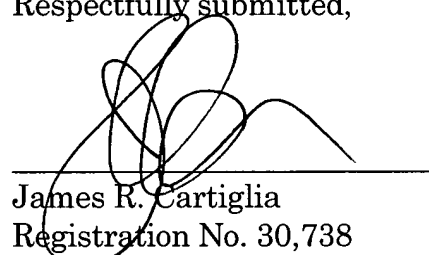
Applicants and their attorneys in the above-referenced case are aware of the following prior art references which are relevant for the reasons indicated. Copies of the cited references are enclosed along with a form PTO-1449 filed herewith.

1. EXHIBIT "A" attached hereto is a drawing of a predecessor of the present invention which has been in commercial use more than one year prior to the filing date of Applicant's nonprovisional application. The device of EXHIBIT "A" is a much more rudimentary system for testing of the same general type as done by the present invention. The system of EXHIBIT "A" provided a cradle for receiving the carbon electrode to be tested. The carbon electrode was moved onto the cradle by movement in a transverse direction perpendicular to the length of the carbon electrode. A single pair of roller transducers was then positioned on opposite sides of

the electrode through the use of two separate transducer placement mechanisms. During the testing operation the roller transducers were each simultaneously moved along the entire length of the electrode to be tested. The roller transducers generated an axial topographic scan image of the electrode. The roller transducers were then disengaged and removed from the carbon electrode, which was picked up from the cradle and again moved in a direction transverse to the length of the electrode to remove it from the test cradle.

2. EXHIBIT "B" is a brochure describing the FANUC Robotics model S-430i™ robots which may be utilized with the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,



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